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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/511,752	10/19/2004	Thomas W. Longo	020826-0312606	4072

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EXAMINER

PATEL, KIRAN B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3612

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/511,752

Applicant(s)

LONGO, THOMAS W.

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/19/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Detailed Action**

Election and Restriction  
(11/7/05)

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-25, drawn to a collision energy-absorbing device, classified in Class 293, Subclass 133.
- II. Claims 26-51, drawn to a combination, classified in Class 293, Subclass 133.
- III. Claims 52-56, drawn to a collision energy-absorbing device, classified in Class 293, Subclass 133.
- IV. Claims 57-59, drawn to the combination, classified in Class 293, Subclass 132.
- V. Claims 60-61, drawn to a pair of lost motion connecting structures, classified in class 293, subclass 133.

2. The inventions, as best understood, are distinct each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions V, IV, III, I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination II as claimed does not require the particulars

of a motor vehicle of subcombination I, perforations of subcombination III, a pair of lost motion connecting structures of subcombination IV, and a first mounting portion of subcombination V. The subcombination has a utility in other combinations such as a transportation device, an air deflector, a collision aid, and a location to mount a device respectively.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. This application, as best understood, contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A - directed towards Fig. 1, 3-10,

Species B - directed towards Fig. 2

Species C - directed towards Fig. 11,

Species D - directed towards Fig. 12,

Species E - directed towards Fig. 13,

Species F - directed towards Fig. 14,

Species G - directed towards Fig. 15,

Species H - directed towards Fig. 16,

Species I - directed towards Fig. 17,

Species J - directed towards Fig. 18,

Species K - directed towards Fig. 19,

Species L - directed towards Fig. 20,

Species M - directed towards Fig. 21-29, 32-33,

Species N - directed towards Fig. 30-31,

Species O - directed towards Fig. 34-39,

Species P - directed towards Fig. 40-41,

Species Q - directed towards Fig. 42-43,

Species R - directed towards Fig. 44-45,

Species S - directed towards Fig. 46-47.

5. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, there appears to be no claim, which is generic to all species.

6. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable *only* on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

7. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by

37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP ¶ 809.02(a).

8. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the Examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

A telephone call was made for the Attorney/Agent responsible for this application to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined. Applicant may amend the composition and/or the grouping of above inventions (I, II, ...) and/or the species (A, B, C, ...) to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

10. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventor ship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if

one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventor ship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.



Kiran B. Patel, P. E.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612  
November 7, 2005